

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00356 111925Z

46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O P 111850Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6119

INFO USNATO PRIORITY 1376

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0356

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EFIS, MARR, NATO, IC, NO, UK

SUBJECT: COD WAR: PARTROL VESSELS

REF: A. AMEMBASSY IRVING-PINKNEY (EUR/NE) TELECON 3/11/76

B. REYKJAVIK 0339 (DTG 101058Z)

C. OSLO 1221 (DTG 111412Z)

1. PRIMEMIN HALLGRIMSSON CALLED ME IN LATE THIS AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AT KROYER MEETING WITH HARTMAN IN WASHINGTON SCHEDULED FOR 1430 HOURS TODAY. KROYER WILL ASK USG REACTION IF GOI WERE TO OFFICIALLY REQUEST USG TO LEND-LEASE PATROL BOATS. PRIMEMIN AND FONMIN KNOW WHAT THE ANSWER OBVIOUSLY MUST BE BUT THEY REQUEST THAT AT THIS MEETING USG MERELY TAKE THE QUESTION UNDER ADVISEMENT AND NOT MAKE CATEGORICAL STATEMENT, AT LEAST NOT BEFORE MARCH 23 BY WHICH TIME PRIMEMIN HOPES TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO FRYKENLUND'S INITIATIVE ON LIMITATION OF BRITISH TRAWLERS. PREMEMIN POINTED OUT THAT DEMONSTRATORS AGAINST IDF FACILITIES WILL ORGANIZE THE MOST SERIOUS DEMONSTRATIONS YET DEvised AND WOULD AS CONSEQUENCE MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE  
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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00356 111925Z

FOR HIM TO GARNER SUFFICIENT SUPPORT TO RESPOND TO

FRYDENLUND INITIATIVE IF USG "EXACERBATED" SITUATION  
BY A QUICK NEGATIVE RESPONSE REGARDING PATROL VESSELS.

2. I RESPONDED THAT USG CANNOT ACCEPT INTERPRETATION  
THAT 1974 DEFENSE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING EXPLICITLY  
OR IMPLICITLY OBLIGATES UG TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN  
FISHERIES DISPUTE OR OBLIGATES USG TO PROVIDE OR LEASE  
PATROL BOATS TO COAST GUARD. PRIMEMIN SAID HE WOULD  
NOT OBJECT TO HAVING THIS TOLD TO KROYER. PRIMEMIN  
ALSO WOULD NOT OBJECT, IF AFTER A WEEK OR SO, (BUT NOT  
AT KROYER MEETING), USG SAID IT WOULD BE WILLING TO  
DISCUSS THE FACILITATION OF COMMERCIAL SALES OF PATROL  
BOATS "FOR SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE." PRIMEMIN  
ASKED IF USG WOULD BE WILLING TO TELL KROYER TODAY  
THAT ASHEVILLE TYPE OR OTHER SUITABLE TYPE VESSEL  
PRESENTLY IN SHORT SUPPLY AND HENCE CANNOT ACCEDE TO  
GOI REQUEST AT THIS TIME. I REMARKED I WOULD CONVEY  
THIS TO WASHINGTON BUT I PERSONALLY DOUBTED WE WOULD  
BE WILLING TO GO THAT FAR AT THIS POINT BECAUSE OF THE  
IMPLICATION OF THE PHRASE "AT THIS TIME."

3. PRIMEMIN SEEKING APPROVAL OF HIS COLLEAGUES FOR  
A TRAWLER LIMITATION OF 20 WITH POSSIBILITY OF MOVING  
IT UP TO 22. IF HE RECEIVES APPROVAL, UK MUST  
AVOID TALKING ABOUT FISH TONNAGE TO WHICH THIS TRANSLATES.  
REASON IS THAT BRITISH AND ICELANDERS DIFFER STATISTICALLY  
ON AMOUNT OF FISH A TRAWLER CAN CATCH IN A YEAR.  
BRITISH SAY EACH TRAWLER CAN CATCH 3400 TONS, HENCE  
THEIR OFFER OF AVERAGE TRAWLER LIMIT OF 25 TOTALS  
85,000 TONS, WHICH IS UNACCEPTABLE TO ICELANDERS.  
ICELANDERS CLAIM EACH BRITISH TRAWLER CAN ONLY CATCH  
ABOUT 2700 TONS, OR A TOTAL OF ABOUT 55,000 TONS FOR  
20 TRAWLERS. IF BRITISH INSIST ON MAKING PUBLIC CLAIM  
OF ANYTHING OVER 65,000 TONS (WHICH WAS GOI'S INITIAL OFFER),  
CHANCES OF ICELAND RATIFICATION BECOME NIL.  
IN OTHER WORDS, IF AN AGREEMENT ON TRAWLER LIMIT IS  
REACHED, BOTH SIDES MUST AVOID MAKING CLAIMS OF TONNAGE.  
AGREEMENT WILL BE AN INTERIM ONE, FOR ONLY 4 - 6 MONTHS.  
PRIMEMIN ALSO TOLD ME OF DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN  
HIM AND AGUSTSSON RE MECHANICS OF HOW OFFER WILL BE  
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PAGE 03 REYKJA 00356 111925Z

CONVEYED, AS REPORTED REFTEL (C).

4. IN A FURTHER DEVELOPMENT, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR  
MCILWRAITH (RESIDENT IN OSLO) TELEPHONE HIM TODAY TO  
SAY HE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PROCEED TO REYKJAVIK  
THIS WEEKEND TO CONVEY PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRIMEMIN  
TRUDEAU. MCILWRAITH SAID HE DID NOT YET KNOW CONTENTS  
OR PURPOSE, BUT SURMISED IT DEALT WITH COD WAR.

5. IN STILL A FURTHER DEVELOPMENT, JUSTICE MIN JOHANNESSON CLAIMS HE HAS IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT UK ABOUT TO MAKE AN OFFER WHICH JOHANNESSON FEELS ICELAND CAN ACCEPT, OR AT LEAST BE THE MOST FAVORABLE YET MADE BY UK. FOR THIS REASON JOHANNESSON WANTS TO DELAY HIS REACTION TO FRYDENLUND'S TRAWLER LIMIT PROPOSAL UNTIL NEXT WEEK.

6. COMMENT: THERE IS DEFINITELY SOMETHING IN THE WIND HERE WHICH CAN LEAD TO AN INTERIM SOLUTION OF THE COD WAR. IF IS FOR THIS REASON WE MUST BE CAUTIOUS IN HOW WE RESPOND TO KROYER' QUERY THIS AFTERNOON. EVERY LEADER IN ICELAND KNOWS THAT THE USG MUST TURN DOWN THE REQUEST AS PROPOSED BY JOHANNESSON (REFTEL B). HOWEVER, FOR POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS, WHICH MIGHT NOT BE LOGICAL TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, YET NEVERTHELESS ARE VALID IN THIS STRANGE ENVIRONMENT, AS WELL AS REFLECTING A REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC EMOTION, THESE LEADERS WOULD PREFER NOT TO FACE UP TO THE TRUTH FOR AT LEAST A WEEK. THEIR HOPE IS THAT SUFFICIENT PROGRESS CAN BE MADE ON AN INTERIM AGREEMENT SO AS TO AVOID MAKING A FORMAL REQUEST TO USG FOR PATROL VESSELS AT THIS TIME.  
IRVING

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NAVAL SHIPS, FISHING DISPUTES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976REYKJA00356  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760092-0971  
**From:** REYKJAVIK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760371/aaaackly.tel  
**Line Count:** 138  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 FEB 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 FEB 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <09 AUG 2004 by saccheem>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COD WAR: PARTROL VESSELS  
**TAGS:** EFIS, MARR, IC, NO, UK, NATO, (HALLGRIMSSON), (HARTMAN), (KROYER)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006